

Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

DHA-02 SCCT-01 /061 W

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R 270638Z APR 76

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3091

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0562

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IZ

SUBJ: CANCELLATION OF SADDAM HUSSEIN'S TRIP TO KUWAIT AND LOWER GULF

1. ACCORDING TO LOCAL DIPLOMATIC SOURCES, SADDAM HUSSEIN, CANCELLED HIS TRIP TO KUWAIT AND THE LOWER GULF AFTER RECEIVING EGYPTIAN AND SAUDI INTELLIGENCE REPORTS THAT SYRAIN AGENTS INTENDED TO ASSASSINATE HIM DURING HIS TRIP, PROBABLY IN KUWAIT. KUWAITI AND LOWER GULF AMBASSADORS WERE TOLD OF HIS DECISION JUST PRIOR TO SADDAM'S DEPARTURE TO JIDDA. IRAQI INTELLIGENCE AUTHORITIES WARNED SADDAM THAT THERE WERE "FOREIGNERS" IN THE KUWAIT AND LOWER GULF INTELLIGENCE SERVICES AND THEY THEREFORE COULD BE RELIED UPON TO FURNISH ADEQUATE PROTECTION.

2. BAGHDAD'S DIPLOMATIC CORPS IS NOW SPECULATING THAT EGYPTIANS AND SAUDIS MAY HAVE HAD ULTERIOR MOTIVES IN PASSING THEIR REPORTS TO IRAQIS. NEITHER COUNTRY WANTS IRAQ TO PLAY A MORE DOMINANT ROLE IN GULF AREA AND THEY WERE THEREFORE HAPPY TO THROW ROAD
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BLOCK IN PATH OF IRAQI EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH KUWAIT AND LOWER GULF COUNTRIES.

3. COMMENT: IF SPECULATION IS ACCURATE, SAUDIS AND EGYPTIANS
ACHIEVED THEIR GOAL. FROM ALL REPORTS, KUWAITIS AND LOWER GULF
STATES ARE UPSET BY IMPLICATION THAT THEIR GOVERNMENTS UNABLE
TO PROVIDE PROPER PROTECTION FOR VISITING IRAQI VIP.
WILEY

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NNN

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To: STATE
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